

Message Text

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ORIGIN L-03

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APPROVED BY S/AR:GALDRICH
DOD:CBOWDEN
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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 072241

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: NATO, PARM

SUBJECT:CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS RESTRICTIONS

REF: USNATO 2405

1. YOU MAY DRAW ON FOLLOWING IN DISCUSSION OF FRG PAPER
CONTAINED REFTEL.
2. WE AGREE WITH BASIC POINTS IN FRG PAPER. SPECIFICALLY:
(A) WE SUPPORT THE CONCLUSION OF WORK ON CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS RESTRICTIONS; (B) HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE THAT THIS WORK
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CAN BE SUCCESSFULLY CONCLUDED ONLY IF DECISIONS ARE TAKEN
ON BASIS OF CONSENSUS, SO AS TO ENSURE BROAD SUPPORT OF
IMPORTANT MILITARY POWERS, AND WE WILL STRONGLY OPPOSE
ANY ATTEMPT IN 1978 PREPARATORY CONFERENCE TO TAKE DECISIONS BY VOTE; (C) WE BELIEVE THAT FIRST PREPARATORY CONFERENCE SHOULD FOCUS ON SUBSTANTIVE RATHER THAN PROCEDURAL
QUESTIONS, SO AS TO DETERMINE WHETHER THERE IS REASONABLE

PROSPECT FOR AGREEMENT AND TO MOVE FORWARD ON REAL WORK OF CONFERENCE; AND (D) WE BELIEVE SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS SHOULD FOCUS ON AREAS WHERE THERE APPEARS TO BE BEST CHANCE FOR AGREEMENT (MINES AND BOOBY TRAPS, USE OF INCENDIARIES IN POPULATED AREAS, AND WEAPONS RELYING ON NON-DETECTABLE FRAGMENTS).

3. WE ALSO AGREE THAT THERE SHOULD BE CONSULTATION AMONG WESTERN ALLIES ON THIS SUBJECT PRIOR TO 1978 PREPARATORY CONFERENCE, AND WE WOULD BE HAPPY TO CONSIDER FRG SUGGESTIONS FOR THIS. (FYI: IN PAST COORDINATION OF WESTERN POSITIONS ON THESE ISSUES, WE HAVE PRIMARILY RELIED ON AD HOC GROUP CONSISTING OF EC COUNTRIES PLUS US, CANADA, JAPAN, AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND; HOWEVER, ON OCCASION WE HAVE ALSO DISCUSSED ISSUES IN NATO GROUP WHEN ONE OF NATO MEMBERS REQUESTED IT. AS YOU KNOW, MC HAS ALSO STUDIED WEAPONS ISSUES. END FYI.) AS TO TIMING, WE CONSIDER IT IMPORTANT THAT ANY FORMAL CONSULTATIONS SHOULD BE DEFERRED UNTIL JULY, AFTER COMPLETION OF SSOD AND LOS, SO THAT POLICY AND LEGAL EXPERTS FAMILIAR WITH THIS SUBJECT CAN TAKE PART. VANCE

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